

Exceptional Children Information for Parents

March 3, 2021

Requirements for Opening N.C. Public Schools

As top education leaders call for school districts to allow in-person instruction for all students, many families are unsure about what will be required for their child as he/she returns to the building. The *Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit* outlines requirements for opening schools. Some of the requirements include:

- Face coverings are required for every teacher, staff member and student from kindergarten through high school. The state will provide at least five reusable face coverings for every student, teacher and staff member.
- Symptom screenings, including temperature checks, take place daily before children enter school buildings.
- Schools must create a way to isolate students who have symptoms and ensure that they can get home safely.
- Schedules must allow time for frequent hand washing and schools will regularly clean classrooms, bathrooms, buses and equipment.
- Teachers work to limit sharing of personal items and classroom materials.
- Non-essential visitors and activities involving outside organizations is limited.
- Schools discontinue the use of self-service food or beverage distribution.

In addition to these and other requirements, schools are strongly recommended to implement other safety precautions such as:

- One-way hallways and entrances
- Keeping students in small groups that stay together as much as possible
- Eating lunch in the classroom if the cafeteria doesn't allow for social distancing
- Suspending activities that bring together large groups such as assemblies
- Installing physical barriers, such as plexiglass at reception desks and similar areas

Returning to in-person will look very different than normal, so please be patient and communicate with the school if issues arise.

Check out previous newsletters for other resources.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/parent-listserv-communications>



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
 - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
 - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

Upcoming Events

March- [Cerebral Palsy Awareness](#)
March- [Developmental Disabilities Awareness](#)
March 1- [International Wheelchair Day](#)
March 2- [Read Across America Day](#) (Dr. Seuss Day)
March 10- National Pack Your Lunch Day (#PackYourLunchDay on social media)
March 11- [Cafecito Virtual Conversación con los Padres](#)
March 19 & 20- Autism Society [Annual Conference](#) (virtual)
March 20 & 21- The Arc's [Spring Fling Trivia Night](#)
March 21- [World Down Syndrome Day](#) & [Virtual Run/Walk](#)
March 24- [National Education & Sharing Day](#)
March 26- [Wear Purple Day for Epilepsy](#)
March 30- [World Bipolar Day](#)
March 30- Take a Walk in the Park Day

Do you have an upcoming event you'd like to share with the community? Please email with information.

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